

Next generation of robots could put China's waitresses out of work

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Cutting-edge creativity



The Alliance Francaise de Pekin and Ullens Center for Contemporary Art are collaborating to introduce Beijing to the latest cutting edge artistic creations.

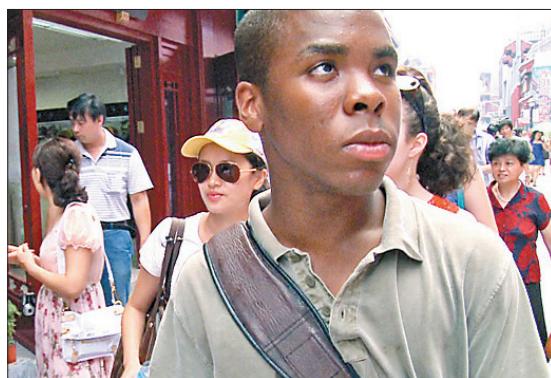
Among its events is an exhibition of engraved prints and photos by international artists on display at Beijing Times Art Museum through August 14.

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Mother reveals life of Beijing's beggars

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Inner city kids find dreams in China

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Fresh foods from a familiar store

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Great buys to look sharp on horseback

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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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Gov's new visa policy targets illegal immigration

By Zhao Hongyi

The National Entry & Exit Bureau is enacting new regulations to clamp down on the number of foreigners who live and work illegally within the country starting from September.

Among the changes are plans to issue more visas and add specific sub-categories to existing visa types. Provincial and municipal Entry & Exit Bureaus are also required to publish their locations online to help foreigners locate them when it's time for renewal.

China currently provides

eight types of visas: D visas, for residence; Z visas, for work; X visas, for study; F visas, for visits; L visas, for tourism; G visas, for transit; C visas, for airline and train attendants; and J visas, for foreign correspondents.

The L visa is being expanded with sub-categories for travel, seeing relatives and managing private affairs. The F visa is also being split up to identify visiting scholars, visiting officials and other visitors.

The new regulations also create an R visa for "high-level talents" that the Chinese

government and state-owned companies recruit to fulfill professional roles, as well as a Q visa for Chinese foreign passport holders who are returning to China to unite with relatives.

Telecoms, hospitals, banks and schools must inspect foreigners' passports and confirm their visas with the Entry & Exit Bureau and police under the new regulations.

In order to encourage foreigners to reside in China with the right papers, the bureau said it will open the door to visa changes within

the country. Foreign residents can apply for a change in status at their local Entry & Exit Bureau. All approved changes must be registered with the local police.

Foreign students who are interested in part-time work can apply to the Entry & Exit Bureau nearest their residence for permission to work off campus. Permission will be noted with a new stamp in their passport.

Foreign students and foreign workers must submit reports to the bureaus at the conclusion of their studies

or work.

Chinese police offices are also required to set up deportation centers where they will hold and interrogate foreigners found to be staying in the country with false or expired documents.

"The goal of these reforms is to allow ordinary people to enter the country and keep the ones who would violate the law out," said Hu Keming, spokesman for the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council.

"It's essential to ensure the security and safety of our country."

Robo-waitresses terrify local diners

By Zhao Hongyi

Even waiters are at risk of losing their jobs to automation thanks to a new creation by the Hefei Material Science Research Institute, a part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The lab's latest product is a robotic waitress dressed in traditional clothes. She is programmed to take orders and deliver dishes.

Each robo-waitress runs on a track built into the restaurant floor that connects tables to the kitchen.

"We wanted to solve the problem of recruiting waitresses. The job is very tiring and the pay is usually quite little," said Wang Yang, one of the engineers.

The original focus was on voice processing technology. The engineers wanted the waitress to analyze vocal commands and immediately be able to provide a total cost of the dishes. However, the technology didn't pan out.

At the Yangtze Restaurant in downtown Beijing, owner Sun Haiyun said the robots were "OK at handling dishes, but not as versatile as real waitresses."

The robots are only allowed to handle cold dishes, rather than soups and hot dishes.

"They had problems adjusting their speed and could easily scald diners with a hot soup," Sun said.

But more unsettling were complaints about the



Robot waitress are an unwanted intrusion in private dining rooms.

CFP Photo

appearance of the robots in private dining rooms. "Many clients complained that the robots look too horrifying. The rooms are dim – especially during dinner hours," Sun said.

The institute said it is working on improving the robots' appearance to look

more attractive and human-like. It is planning to create different models for different restaurants.

"We can make the robots look fashionable for modern and fusion restaurants, and more traditional for the Chinese restaurants," Wang Yang said.

Transnational matchmaker jailed for fraud, bribery

By Zhao Hongyi

Six years ago, a woman surnamed Jin in Changchun, Jilin Province began the search for a transnational marriage.

It didn't take long for her to find Liu Xiaopeng, a matchmaker promising he could find anyone a foreign spouse.

The two connected in February 2008, and Jin paid Liu a deposit of 10,000 yuan for his services. Another 70,000 yuan followed three months later.

About 60 days after receiving her money, Liu called Jin to tell her he had found her an old man from the US and that he had arranged for them to meet in Changchun.

During his visit, the man paid for everything but clammed up whenever Jin mentioned marriage. He

mailed back all her personal materials after he returned to the US.

When the planned marriage fell through, Jin asked Liu for a refund. He promised another arrangement instead.

Jin eventually called the police, who arrested Liu on suspicion of fraud.

During the investigation, police learned Liu had been running his marriage racket since 2006, promising green cards or K visas to the US and Canada.

He ultimately tricked 23 women into giving him a total of 1.1 million yuan.

Liu was found guilty of fraud and bribery by the Beijing No. 2 District Court last week and sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined 11,000 yuan.



A Chinese bride and English groom attend their wedding ceremony in Beijing. Transnational marriages are increasingly common.

CFP Photo

Beggars' work defined by unwritten code

By Zhao Hongyi

The capital's booming subway network has become a haven for beggars looking to earn a living off other people's wallets.

For new arrivals, the complex rules, routes and relationships of the begging culture is a lesson learned only at the School of Hard Knocks.



Beggars are regularly seen on Beijing's subways.

CFP Photo

Life of a beggar

Chang, a 22-year-old mother from Gansu Province, begs on Lines 5 and 10 of the Beijing subway every day. Her two-year-old son goes with her.

Chang brought her son to Beijing in April to be treated for a hernia. However, she was not able to afford the 30,000 yuan surgery.

"I tried hard to find a job," she said. "However, I never finished elementary school."

After seeing a group of beggars on the subway one day, she decided that could be a way to earn money.

At first she was too shy. She spent 140 yuan to buy a portable audio recorder and a loudspeaker to carry down the subway and play music instead of talking to people.

Now she earns about 70 to 80 yuan per day, and can bring in as much as 200 yuan on a good day.

However, her son's condition has worsened and his scrotum has swollen to the size of an adult's fist. Chang's husband, who works in Inner Mongolia, asked her to reunite with him in the autonomous region, but his 10,000 yuan in savings cannot pay for their son's surgery.

Internal rules

The world of beggars is



Chang and her son on subway Line 10



Chang and her son



Chang and her son chat with other beggars

no less complicated than any other industry. Chang has had to learn through experience that many routes are off limits.

"Once time I ran into a disabled man begging on Line 5. He stole my audio recorder and beat me with a steel pipe," she said.

The beating was a lesson in etiquette.

"We enter the trains from the first car and proceed to the last cabin, begging along the way," Chang said. "If you see a disabled beggar on the same line, you have to get off at the next exit or they will beat you."

Beggars are organized into networks based on their original province, region, city or village. The majority come from provinces in the western interior, such as Henan, Gansu, Shanxi and Shaanxi.

These groups support each other when subway disputes turn into turf wars.

Disabled beggars usually stick to Line 10, working the high-profit area near Sanyuanqiao and its neighboring diplomatic area.

Guomao Station, the intersection of subway Lines 1, 2 and 10, attracts women who beg with their children: kids are a valuable commodity for beggars in the heart of the business district.

The south part of Line 10 between Dahongmen and Jiaomen stations is reserved for the elderly.

No clean solution

China's begging tradition evolved from its agrarian past.

In the old days, when most Chinese people lived in single-surname villages, beggars were helped by other members of their extended family.

But as the country's wealth gap widened and more money was squandered on corruption, rural beggars flocked to the big cities.

The government responded by mobilizing police to round up and arrest beggars. Chang has been arrested several times, but is released after she produces her son's birth certificate and her papers.

Such documents are important, because police say there are many women beggars working the subway lines with trafficked children.

Although the subway's management company officially prohibits begging, the beggars always find a way to enter. Most dress as normal passengers to avoid notice at the security checkpoints. Child beggars are accompanied to the subway by a family member or guardian.

Summer is the peak season for child beggars: the vacation allows many children from the countryside to come to the capital to meet their parents, who then

encourage the children to take up begging to bring in some extra money.

Stations can only call the police or ask the beggars to leave. While the police have the right to arrest them, the paperwork to transfer a beggar to a homeless shelter is long and complicated.

Even when a beggar does end up in a rescue center and gets sent home, it doesn't take long for them to return to the capital: the income from begging is just too tempting.

"The best thing we can do is find them a way to earn a living on their own," said Wang Jun, a professor of social science at Peking University.

"The sooner you start your own business the better – even if it's small," he said.

"I know people like me have no right to beg for money," Chang said. "But if I don't beg, how will I ever be able to afford medical care for my son?"

Chang is still hoping her husband can save enough to pay for the surgery or that a rich benefactor will cover their medical expenses.

When asked what she dreams of doing when she no longer has to beg, Chang said she hopes she can study Latin dance.

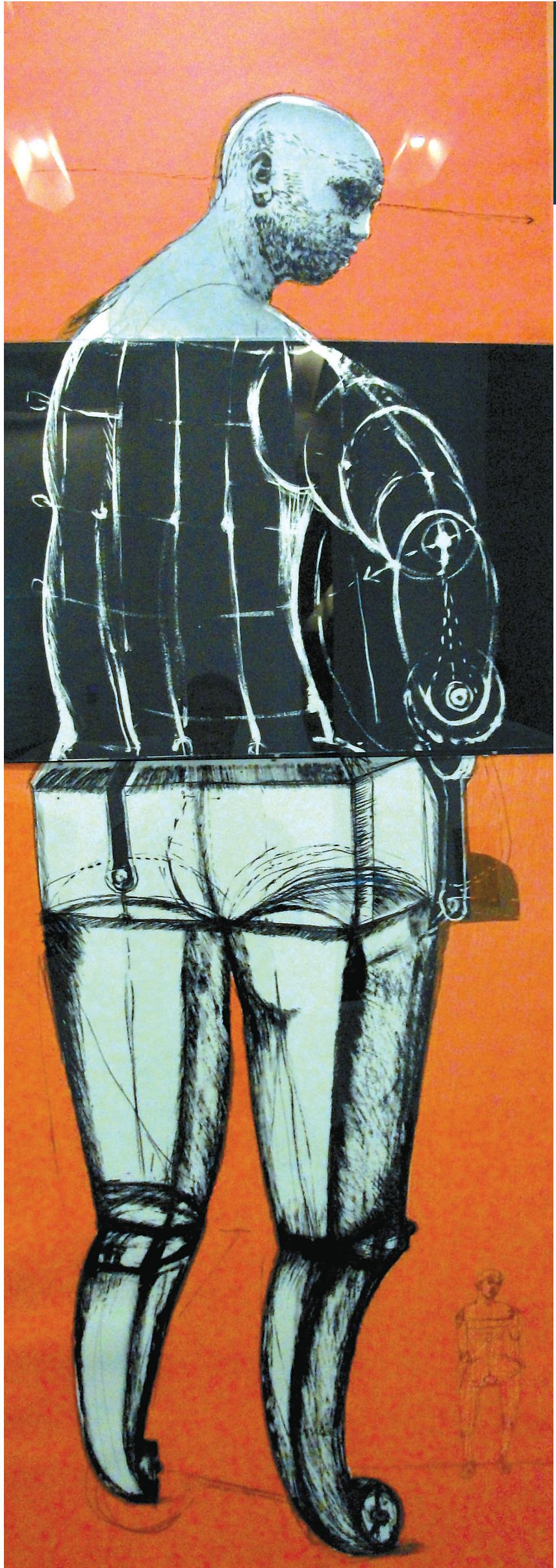


Figure He Intaglio

By Agnieszka Cieslinska

Master etching cross-border e

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing One International Arts of Performance

border exhibitions, plays and concerts to the cap

Organized by Alliance Francaise de Pekin and

temporary Art, the festival is intended to introduce

Transgraphics: Collections of the Mariusz Kazana Foundation

This collection focuses on prints of engraved and etched plates that show images connected to life and human society.

Most were the property of Mariusz Kazana, Poland's former director of diplomatic protocol who died in the air crash that also killed President Lech Kaczynski on April 10, 2010.

Although a diplomat, Mariusz had a strong interest in the arts.

After his death, a foundation was established to manage his collection and accept contributions from modern artists. The foundation has since become an important diplomatic tool for Poland.

The exhibition displays traditional prints as well as digital prints and new media presentations. It shows how traditional techniques still play a role in modern technology, and how modern materials and technologies can affect classical printmaking.

Marcin Bialas's works are an example of how traditional printmaking can be used to present a modern idea. His exquisite etchings are among the best examples of aquatint technique. His "The Organism Called the City" is part of a series of beautiful prints that alludes to architectural drawings and reminds viewers about the relationship between graphic art and sketch.

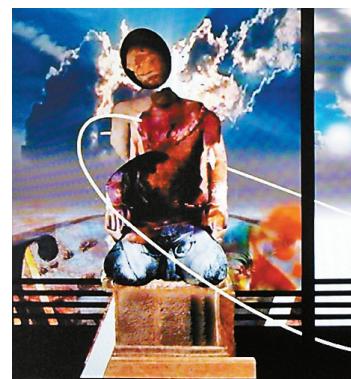
The works of **Janusz Akermann** represent another kind of linocut, as he created his own technique of printing color linocuts using one matrix. The artist intuitively applies colors to a pattern cut from linoleum. Grotesque characters of his prints are made of the material of the ornaments and lines. While keeping the ideas and decoration of form, this seemingly chaotic process produces a neat image of delightful material and color.

Ksawery Kaliski's "Corespondence" displays a new method of expression. His division of planes into two parallel parts, each changing and corresponding with the other, is essential to the concept of the piece. A variety of graphic result from his composition of the two spaces.

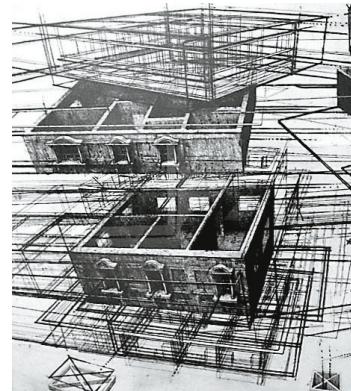
Agnieszka Cieslinska's work represents a completely different kind of figure art. Her prints show figures that are not fully defined and that remain realistically fragmentary. Most are based on quotes from famous painters, guides or photographic excerpts. Her lines, divisions and constructions bring to mind technical drawings of the humanoid machine, enclosing man in a limited form.

Stanislaw Baldyga renders the subtle world of nature in a new way. Ordered shapes and structures penetrate each other in his print for a surreal landscape. His "My Cosmos" series reveals the beauty, harmony and order of the world, as observed in an enlarged fragment of nature. Baldyga's cosmos consists of overlapping dimensions of reality and imagination.

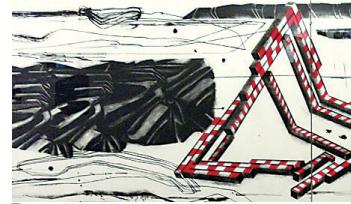
Krzysztof Kiwerski's "Babylon" consists of moving sequences of bird's-eye views of the urban world. The rhythm of forms and shifting structures create a constant movement that shapes the image of a futuristic city. Spontaneously-emerging forms of buildings, based on the structure of the sign, are constantly deformed.



Correspondences Digital graphic



Between Intaglio



Barrier Intaglio



The Son of a Bitch's Family Linocut

gs, photos meet in exhibition



The Festival is bringing cross-cultural art to the capital's central district. The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art is introducing new art forms to China

and to open a dialogue about the growth of performance and contemporary art.

Two of its art exhibitions are open now, and are among the most accessible of the festival's cutting edge creations.



Lost in Forest

By Diana Coca

No Gap: Manifest and Hidden

Eleven artists from home and abroad were invited to this exhibition.

Among the participants are Zhu Xianmin, who records the people living on the banks of the Yellow River; Malie Letrange, Zhu Yinghao and Huang Jue, who have been traveling and using their cameras for humanitarian work; and She Jiangping, Zhu Di and Fang Yunling, who use their foreign experience to observe the world against a multicultural backdrop.

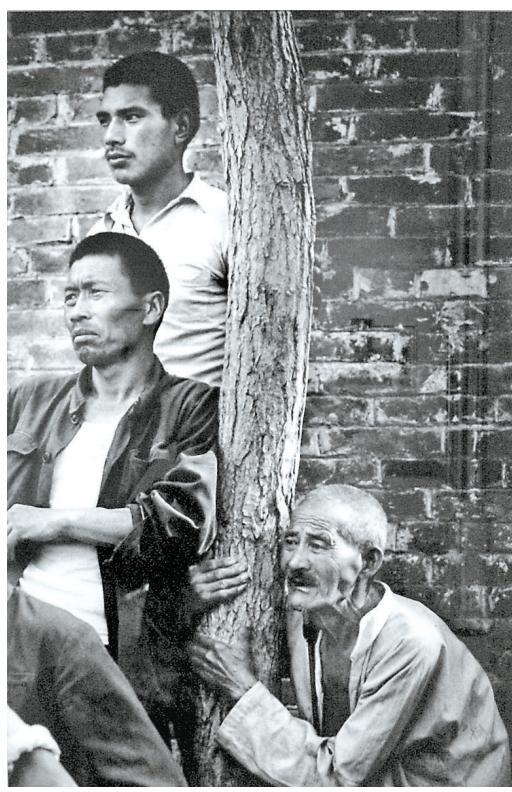
Photographers Yan Zhou, Zhang Wei, Liu Guidi and Diana Coca round out the exhibition with their work, which focuses on experimental creation.

For artists, photography is a tool of self-expression. Their works allow viewers to experience the process of exploring their egos and the outside world – one which leads back to the core thought behind each image.

Photography embeds boundless invisible senses in visible images.

Every image is created to give a sensation, irrespective of whether the focus is on a group of people or a single face, or whether it is a casual snapshot or a peek into another reality.

Photos at the exhibition show the lives of elderly residents, youngsters, religious devotees and people from other walks of life. The works share a same topic: human beings and their natural environment.

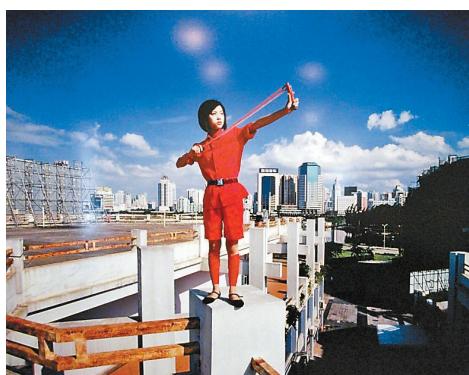


People on Yellow River

By Zhu Xianmin



Grandma and Her Pigs By Zhu Yinghao



Red Soldier

By Huang Jue

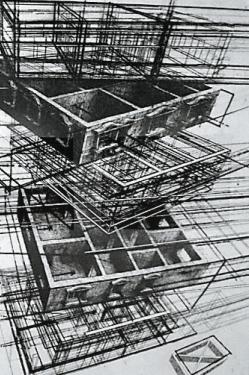


Actress

By Mary Letrange



By Ksawery Kaliski



By Marcin Bialas



By Henryk Ozog



By Janusz Akermann

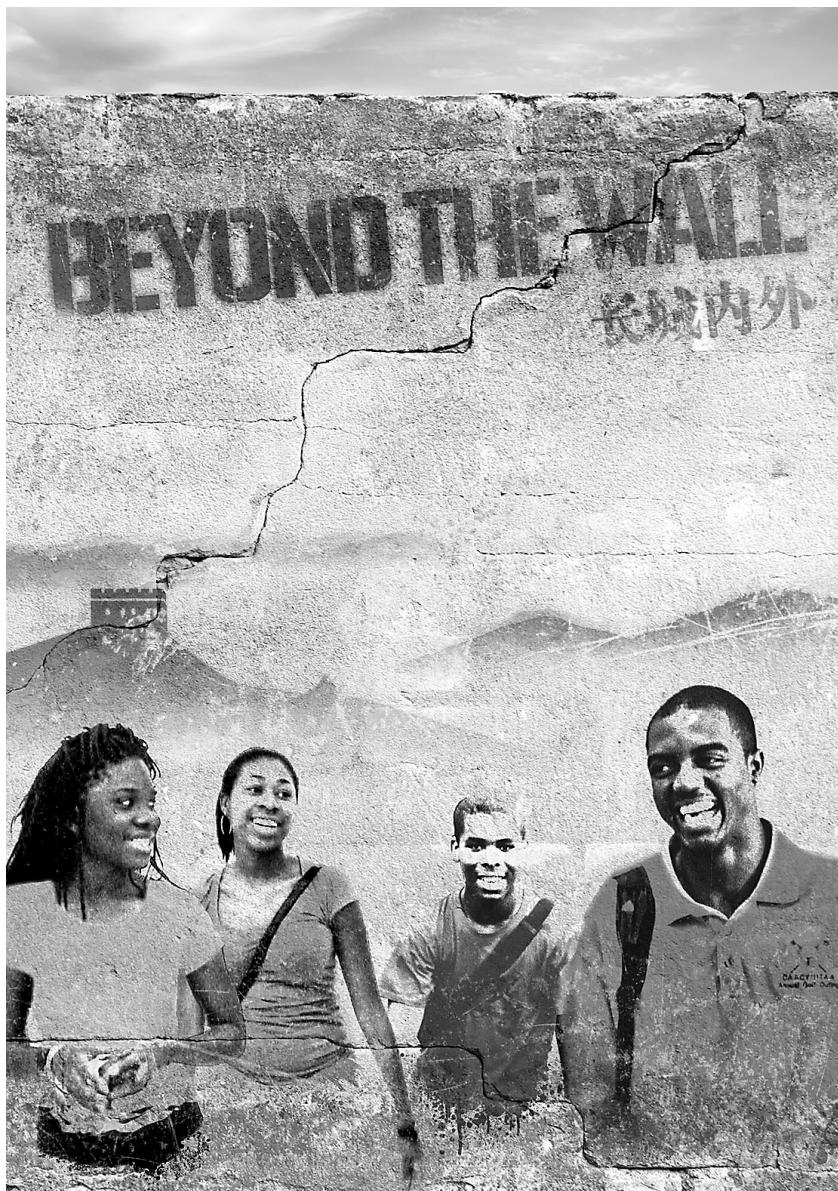
Disadvantaged students find dreams in China



Jesse Burke,
director



Sven Mader,
sound recorder



Mongolian villagers



Royelle Jones and her
mother



Jeffery Wood's first time in China



Chinese lessons



Peter Mambwe in China

Beyond The Wall poster

Photos provided by In A Box

By Annie Wei

Summer is when Beijing's tourism peaks.

While many of the city's temporary inhabitants are just passing through, some are students here for what could be a life-changing experience.

The new documentary *Beyond the Wall* follows four American teens from the tough streets of Washington DC who are given the rare chance to study abroad.

Studying outside the country is difficult and expensive for most American students. For students from poor neighborhoods, it's downright unimaginable.

But *Beyond the Wall*'s students got some help from Americans Promoting Study Abroad (APSA), a scholarship foundation created by Ted Dean, Paula Koda and Mike Dardzinski, former exchange students to China.

Unlike most scholarships, which have many limiting factors, APSA tries to allow a broad group of Americans study abroad to balance out the students from wealthier families.

Director Jesse Burke and producers Alison Clark and Duncan Clark first heard about the program in its second year.

Acting on the hunch it could be a good story, the three traveled to Washington DC in January 2009 to meet the students who went on the 2008 trip. After seeing the impact it

had had on their lives, they knew they had found a film.

One of the most interesting students is Jeffery Wood, a model student at Roosevelt High School. He is unusually shy when he appears on camera, and his mother expresses concern about his first trip away from home.

The five weeks in China were hard for Wood.

He could not adapt to the food, did not fit in with his new friends and struggled with the environment when the time came to volunteer at a school for the children of migrant workers.

Wood and the others spent a hot night crammed into a tiny room with hardwood beds and no air-conditioning. Most ended up sleeping outside on the playground.

He returned to Beijing in 2011 as one of several alumni for APSA's Booy Lehoon concert. Only two years later, he appears very different in the camera: more confident, outgoing and able to adapt to the environment.

Juanique McNeill was another of the students on the trip. She had a troubled high school history that included expulsion for fighting. McNeill struggled with learning Chinese, but the volunteer work kept her motivated.

Royelle Jones comes from a large family that lives in a two-bedroom apartment on

the south side of DC. Many scenes focus on how she and her family struggle to make ends meet.

The most unusual member of the group was Peter Mambwe, who was making his second trip to China. Mambwe was born and grew up in Zambia. When he turned 14, he moved to Washington DC to live with his mother and stepfather.

Seeing Chinese life, education and poverty, Mambwe struggled to decide whether to return to Zambia or remain in the US.

But can a five-week trip have such a life-changing impact?

For the young men and women in the documentary, the trip to China was clearly just the beginning of their story.

Clark, one of the producers, said the film discusses how the chance to do something outside your comfort zone can open your mind to new opportunities.

"I think the impact varies from student to student: for some kids it will be life-changing and for others less so," she said.

Beyond The Wall

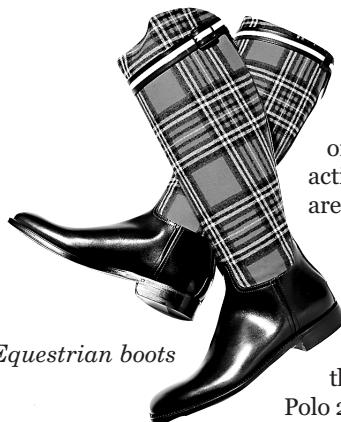
Directed by Jesse Burke

Edited by Simon Lee

Produced by Jesse Burke, Alison Clark, Duncan Clark and Philip Qu

Running time: 77 minutes.

Gear up for horsemanship



Equestrian boots

By Annie Wei

Beijing's short autumn is the perfect time to take up a sport like equestrian riding or polo – the latest trendy activities for rich Chinese who are bored with golf.

Last weekend, competitors from the universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard and Yale met at Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club for the Metropolitan Intervarsity Polo 2013 competition.

The competition is one of many yearly tournaments the club hosts to boost awareness of polo and cultivate young players.

Many of the younger audience members said they would love to have the opportunity to learn polo.

For those wanting to master the basics, Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club offers a series of equestrian classes with experienced trainers from Argentina.

The club has more than 206 well-trained horses in its stables, as well as an all-weather arena and world-class training facilities.

Classes teach simple beginners' riding and eventually graduate to advanced equestrian skills.

This week, *Beijing Today* hunted around to find the best gear to make you look sharp on your steed.

Boots

Although every major fashion label offers equestrian boots, we recommend you stick to a professional brand like Tucci or Ariat.

Equestrian boots use double-layer leather with quality stitching to keep your feet and calves warmer than other brands.

The boots rarely come in popular colors or with flashy accessories. Most are intended to be low-key and classy: ideal for riding or daily wear.

Website: ariat.com

Pants

A pair of sleek rider's pants will serve you as well as JBrand's leather skinny jeans – and they're cheaper!

True equestrians know Pikeur as a classic brand for pants and shirts. It is also an official Olympic outfitter.

Website: pikeur.biz

Helmet

Equestrian helmets protect the rider's head and are especially important for beginners.

Website: troxelhelmets.com

Blazers

In equestrian training, blazers usually only come in plain colors like navy, black or chestnut.

You can add a little pink, orange or coral – all popular colors this year.



Hunting gloves



Teams compete at the Metropolitan Intervarsity Polo 2013.

Photos provided by Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club



Equestrian helmets



Classic white shirt
CFP Photos



The University of Cambridge won the trophy at the Metropolitan Intervarsity Polo 2013 competition on July 28.

Paris Baguette upgrades outlet



1.

1. Green grape juice, 30 yuan
2. Fruit pie, 16 yuan
3. Sandwiches, starting from 18 yuan
4. Homemade tarts, starting from 16 yuan
5. Fresh yeast bread, starting from 10 yuan



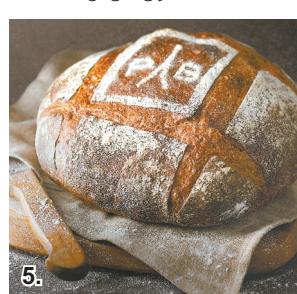
2.



3.



4.



5.

Where: 1F, B Area, Upper East Side Compound, Fangyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 7 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5130 3960

By Annie Wei

Although coffee giant Starbucks is closing several of its locations due to soaring rent, its competition is still going strong.

The bakery and coffee chain Paris Baguette announced plans to open several new outlets during the next six months.

As part of the roll-out, the chain's Yangguang Shangdong location has been upgraded to Signature, the brand's boutique bakery.

Most products sold at Paris Baguette are produced by a central kitchen and distributed to each location. However, Signature's food is made in-house.

Customers can get fresh yeast bread (starting from 10 yuan), homemade tarts (starting from 16 yuan) and green grape juice (30 yuan).

Signature's cappuccino starts from 18 yuan.

The store's dominant color is black, unlike Paris Baguette's black and blue color scheme.

Signature



Signature's outlet

Photos provided by Paris Baguette

Great lunch deals



Sardinian gnocchi with lamb shoulder ragout

By Annie Wei

Looking for a reasonably priced lunch around Sanlitun?

This week we tried Bantu, which serves great meals from 88 yuan, and Migas, whose new weekly menu starts from 85 yuan.

Best Sardinian food and wine

Most diners who have been to the Italian restaurant Bantu have praised it.

The food is excellent and reasonably

priced, with two-course meals for 88 yuan and three courses for 138 yuan.

The lunch menu is simple, with typical Sardinian foods such as Bruschetta with bacon, mushrooms and roast garlic; homemade Sardinian gnocchi with lamb shoulder ragout; Bantu-style risotto; and Sardinian minced pork with potatoes and oyster mushrooms.

The restaurant was named for a winery on Sardinia, the island from which owner and chef Robert Masili hails.

Bantu also has a wide selection of wines – especially fine wines from Tuscany and Sardinia – starting from 890 yuan per bottle.

Coffees such as espresso start from 20 yuan, and soda water costs 15 yuan.

Bantu

Where: 2F, Meilin Dasha, Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District (beside China View)

Open: 11:30 am – 3 pm; 6-11 pm

Tel: 8587 1299



Fresh lunch options every week

Migas' weekly lunch menu is amazing.

For only 85 yuan you get a three-course meal, with your choice of three starters, main courses and desserts.

We tried the roast peppers, potatoes Parmentier and slow-cooked egg, pan-fried mackerel with escabeche sauce, duck breast with peach puree and crispy black olives.

All came in ample servings.

If you are not a big fan of chocolate, the vanilla pudding with strawberry jam and chocolate foam might be too sweet for sizzling August.

Try the raspberry crumble with caramel cream ice cream for a better sweet and sour combination.

Migas

Where: 6F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 3 pm; 6-10 pm

Tel: 5208 6061